

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Rule 53(b) Continuation of S.N. :
09/509,529 filed on Mar. 31, 2000 :
Inventor: BOUGAMONT *et al.* :
Serial No.: Unassigned : Group Art Unit: Unassigned
Filed: Concurrently Herewith : Examiner: Unassigned
For: System for Preserving a Liquid Substance in a Flexible Container

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to taking any action on the merits, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the entire abstract (all of the text which appears on page 9) with the new abstract which is submitted herewith on a separate sheet.

RECEIVED 03/13/01

A B S T R A C T

A system for conserving a liquid substance (L) in a flexible receptacle (1), the substance being liable to be degraded and/or contaminated on contact with ambient air. The system includes a solid insert (3) whose outer envelope substantially matches the inside shape of the receptacle (1) in which the insert is immersed at least in part. The insert has bactericidal and/or chemical, especially antioxidant, activity and provides protective treatment by making contact with substance (L) over a large interchange area.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-10 without prejudice or disclaimer with respect to the subject matter recited therein.

Please add the following new claims to the application:

11. (New) A system for conserving a liquid substance (L) in a flexible receptacle (1), said substance being liable to be degraded and/or contaminated on contact with ambient air, the system being characterized in that it comprises a solid insert (3) whose outer shape substantially matches the inside shape of the receptacle (1) in which the insert is immersed at least in part, said insert providing protective treatment by making contact with said substance (L) over a large interchange area and wherein the insert is free to move inside the receptacle.

12. (New) A system according to claim 11, characterized in that the insert (3) is elastically deformable and has a volume which is substantially equal to the inside volume of the receptacle (1).

13. (New) A system according to claim 11, characterized in that the insert (3) is rigid, and has a volume which is determined as a function of the inside volume of the receptacle (1) in such a manner as to limit compression of the receptacle and thus limit the size of the dose of substance (L) that can be dispensed.

14. (New) A system according to claim 11, characterized in that the geometry of the insert (3) is determined so as to leave at least one preferred zone for deformation of the wall (1a, 1b) of the receptacle (1).

15. (New) A system according to claim 14, characterized in that said preferred zone for deformation is constituted by a peripheral groove (30) formed substantially halfway along the insert (3) and of dimensions that are appropriate for being held in the hand.

16. (New) A system according to claim 11, characterized in that the insert (3) is made out of a material that, on coming into contact with the substance (L), presents action that is bactericidal and/or chemical.

17. (New) A system according claim 11, characterized in that said insert (3) is made of a porous or spongy material capable of being impregnated by the liquid substance (L).

18. (New) A system according to claim 17, characterized in that the porosity of the material constituting the insert lies in the range 40% to 60%, and its pore diameter lies in the range 5 μm to 60 μm .

19. (New) A system according to claim 11, characterized in that said insert (3) is made as a single piece.

20. (New) A system according to claim 11, characterized in that said insert (3) is made in the form of a filling of a plurality of pieces.

21. (New) The system of claim 16 wherein said insert is made out of a material that, on coming into contact with the substance (L), presents an action that is chemical with the proviso that said chemical action is an antioxidant action.

22. (New) A system for conserving a liquid substance in a receptacle; said system comprising a receptacle and a nonsoluble insert in said receptacle; said nonsoluble insert being free to move inside the receptacle and said insert being made out of a material that, on coming into contact with the substance over a large interchange area, presents a bactericidal and/or chemical action.

23. (New) The system of claim 22 wherein said insert comprises a plurality of pieces in the form of granules.

REMARKS

Claims 11-15 and 17-20 correspond respectively to claims 1-5 and 7-10 in the parent application as they were amended after the first office action.

Claim 16 corresponds to claim 6 in the parent application as it was amended in the preliminary amendment except that claim 16 no longer includes the phrase "in particular antioxidant". The chemical feature of the insert which has the antioxidant property is now found in new claim 21.

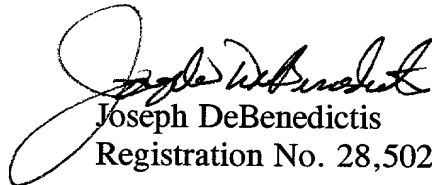
Claims 22 and 23 have been added to cover additional embodiments of the invention.

The abstract has been amended so that it corresponds with the amended abstract in the parent application.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of changes made to the application by this amendment. The attachment is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made".

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 18, 2002


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE ABSTRACT:

The abstract was amended as follows:

[SYSTEM FOR PRESERVING A LIQUID SUBSTANCE IN A FLEXIBLE CONTAINER]

A B S T R A C T

[The invention provides a] A system for conserving a liquid substance (L) in a flexible receptacle (1), [said] the substance being liable to be degraded and/or contaminated on contact with ambient air[.]. [the] The system [being characterized in that it comprises] includes a solid insert (3) whose outer envelope substantially matches the inside shape of the receptacle (1) in which the insert is immersed at least in part[, said]. The insert [providing] has bactericidal and/or chemical, especially antioxidant, activity and provides protective treatment by making contact with [said] substance (L) over a large interchange area.

[Figure 1b]